

NEWS

The Tribal Newsletter
is published free monthly.

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LETTER

Region 10 Tribal Newsletter



<http://yosemite.epa.gov/R10/TRIBAL.NSF/Newsletter/Issues>

Vol. 16, No.6 — June 2007

<> CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS <>

June

4-6 **Western State Wetlands Workshop**, Park City, UT. For information: <http://www.aswm.org/calendar/lt&lg/lt&lg2.htm>

4 -- **Yukon River Healing Journey** -- British Columbia to Alaska. For info: Rob Rosenfeld

{ Aug 13 YRITWC Director, 907-388-2683, www.yritwc.com (See page 5)

10-13 **NCAI 2007 Mid-Year Conference**, Anchorage, AK. For information: www.ncai.org

11-15 **Sharing Indigenous Wisdom: An International Dialogue on Sustainable Development**, GreenBay, WI. For information: <http://www.sharingindigenouswisdom.org/>

19-22 **7-Generations Training**, Barrow, AK. For info: Pat Neakok, 907-852-4227 (See page 7)

28 **National Incident Mgmt. System Workshop**, Anchorage, AK For info: Ron Britton (See page 6)

July

17-20 **NETI Basic Inspector Course**, Seattle, WA. For info: Jeffrey Lightner, lightner.jeff@epa.gov

23-26 **National Forum on Contaminants in Fish**, Portland, ME. (See below)

24-26 **Hazards in Water Resources**, Universities Council on Water Resources & National Institutes for Water Resources Conference, Boise, ID. For information: <http://www.ucowr.siu.edu>

30 **Traveling the Traditional Highways of our Ancestors**, Lummi Stommish Grounds, Lummi, WA
For info: <http://www.paddletolummi.com> or Freddie Lane: freddielane@paddletolummi.com

August

22-23 **Tribal Children's Environmental Health Summit**, Denver, CO. Priority given to tribes in Regions 6, 8, & 10 but open to everyone. For info: Eric Byous, byous.eric@epa.gov or 415-972-3790

<> THIS MONTH <>

Climate Change, Land Use Change, and Invasive Species

The EPA Science to Achieve Results (STAR) program and the USDA NRI Competitive Grants Program are seeking proposals for research on the ecological impacts from the interactions of climate change, land use change, and invasive species.

The purpose is to quantitatively investigate how climate change, climate variability, and change in land use: 1) influence the establishment, abundance and distribution of invasive species; 2) interact with invasive species to create feedbacks that increase their success;

3) interact with invasive species to cause threshold responses in natural and managed systems; or 4) affect the chemical, biological and mechanical management of invasive species.

EPA invites proposals addressing aquatic ecosystems, and the USDA is interested in proposals addressing managed terrestrial systems.

The deadline for proposals is June 26, 2007. For information: http://es.epa.gov/ncer/rfa/2007/2007_star_ecoimpacts.html

<> EVENT <>

National Forum on Fish Contaminants

The National Forum on Contaminants in Fish, July 23-26 in Portland, Maine brings together public health and environmental professionals, states, tribes, and others to discuss contaminated-fish issues. The Forum is sponsored by EPA and the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

Health and environmental officials and others interested in presenting and discussing issues related to dietary exposure to bioaccumulative chemical contaminants are encouraged to attend. For information: <http://fishforum.rti.org>

>>>>>

Drinking Water Loan Information

The drinking water state revolving fund (DWSRF) provides money to drinking water systems through state agencies to finance infrastructure systems. For the current fiscal year, DWSRF funds total \$341.5 million, up four million from FY2006.

DWSRF funds may be used in many ways. EPA provides many publications about the fund. Recently, the Agency added the *Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Program Operations Manual* and the *DWSRF Guide to Understanding Audits*, to the DWSRF website: <http://www.epa.gov/OGWDW/dwsrf/index.html>.

The program was established by the 1996 Safe Drinking Water Act amendments. It emphasizes providing funds to small communities and to programs that encourage pollution prevention to ensure safe drinking water.

According to EPA, "the nation's water systems must make significant investments to install, upgrade, or replace infrastructure to continue to ensure . . . safe drinking water to their customers."

For more information about DWSRF loans and requirements, visit the website or call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-47911.

Watershed Management

EPA has released a new version of its acclaimed watershed management program, making it easier to use. *Better Assessment Science Integrating Point and Nonpoint Sources* (BASINS) is a multipurpose system that integrates environmental data, analytical tools, and modeling programs.

BASINS can help regions, states, and local agencies develop cost-effective approaches to watershed management and environmental protection. BASINS 4.0 is a valuable tool for watershed and water quality-based analyses, including developing total maximum daily load (TMDL) allocations.

Unlike earlier releases, BASINS 4.0 runs on non-proprietary, open source, free geographic information system (GIS) software, which makes the tool available to anyone interested in the system. Prior versions required users to purchase costly GIS software to run BASINS.

Once installed on a personal computer, BASINS 4.0 gives users access to large amounts of point and non-point source data, which they can use to assess or predict flow and water quality for selected streams or entire watersheds. For more info about BASINS 4.0, see: <http://www.epa.gov/waterscience/basins>

Water Quality Exchange (WQX)

The Water Quality Exchange, a new data transfer system, is ready for use. EPA's WQX makes it easier for states, tribes, and others to submit and share water quality monitoring data over the Internet. WQX allows for the transfer of chemical and fish tissue data, as well as physical parameters such as temperature.

With WQX, groups that collect water quality data no longer need to use EPA's STORET database to submit their information to the National STORET Data Warehouse. WQX, in essence, uses new Web technology and Agency-wide standards to bring data sharing into the 21st century.

Also newly available is a Web-based *Watershed Summary* tool. This tool can help water quality managers and the public use the information in the National STORET Data Warehouse. It allows users to create a summary of available data for an individual watershed. It shows 1) the types of data available in the Warehouse for that watershed (such as metals, nutrients, or pesticides), 2) who entered the data, 3) the period of record for the data, 4) and how much of the data is available.

The user can then download the specific data needed for that watershed. For more information on WQX and the Watershed Summary, see: <http://www.epa.gov/storet>

Watershed Outreach Training

EPA's Watershed Academy has posted a free, updated online training module: "Getting in Step: A Guide to Conducting Watershed Outreach Campaigns." This module offers a tested step-by-step approach to help local governments, watershed organizations and others.

It is designed to maximize the effectiveness of public outreach campaigns to help solve nonpoint source pollution problems and protect local

waterways. The module is based on EPA's printed 2003, guide *Getting in Step: A Guide for Conducting Watershed Outreach Campaigns*.

To view the *Getting in Step* training module, visit: <http://www.epa.gov/watertrain/gettinginstep>
About 50 other free, online Watershed Academy training modules can be found at: <http://www.epa.gov/watertrain>

EPA Watershed Information Sites

EPA provides a variety of information about watersheds, watershed planning and project funding:

- Funding: <http://www.epa.gov/owow/funding.html>
- Tools: <http://www.epa.gov/owow/watershed/tools>
- Training: <http://www.epa.gov/owow/watershed/wacademy>
- Section 319 Nonpoint Source Grants: <http://www.epa.gov/owow/nps/cwact.html>
- Targeted Watersheds Grants Program: <http://www.epa.gov/owow/watershed/initiative>
- Watershed Approach Framework: <http://www.epa.gov/owow/watershed/framework/html>

Ground Water Rule Finalized

In October 2006, EPA finalized the Ground Water Rule. The rule is intended to foster increased protection against microbial pathogens in public water systems that use ground water sources. The compliance requirement date for the rule is December 1, 2009, unless otherwise noted.

The Ground Water Rule establishes a risk-target at ground water systems that are susceptible to fecal contamination, instead of requiring disinfection for all ground water

systems. The occurrence of fecal indicators in a drinking water supply indicates the possible presence of microbial pathogens that may threaten public health. The rule requires ground water systems at risk of fecal contamination to take corrective action to reduce illnesses and deaths due to exposure.

For more information, visit: <http://www.epa.gov/OGWDW/disinfection/gwr/regulation.html> or call 800-624-8301 and select option #3.

New DVD on Healthy Schools

Children are considered to be among the most vulnerable to environmental threats. On National Healthy Schools Day, April 30, EPA reminded communities to get involved with their schools to be sure the facilities are not putting children at risk.

To help, EPA is releasing a new, free DVD, *What Your School or Child Care Facility Should Know About Lead in Drinking Water* and a new document, *Water Quality Funding Sources for Schools — A Resource for K-12 and Child Care Facilities*.

These materials explain how schools and child care centers can test for lead in drinking water, report results to all interested parties, and fund corrective actions.

EPA has also developed a wide range of programs and tools, such as the HealthySeat program, dedicated to preventing or resolving environmental issues in schools. For more information: <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/schools/guidance.html>

Air Pollution Down, Air Quality Up

A look at air quality and emissions data for 2006 shows continued improvement in the nation's air quality. Emissions of six key pollutants have dropped by more than half since 1970, and the national average concentration for each of six criteria pollutants is below the level of its air quality standard.

Under the Clean Air Act, EPA sets national air quality standards for six pollutants: nitrogen dioxide, ozone, sulfur dioxide, particulate matter and lead. While these emissions continue to decline, the country has continued to grow. Total emissions of the six key pollutants dropped 54% between 1970 and 2006. During that time, the U.S. gross domestic product increased 203%, vehicle miles traveled increased 177%, energy consumption increased 49%, and the population grew 46%. Air toxics emissions in 2002 were 35 % lower than in 1990.

Each year, EPA examines the levels of these pollutants and emissions from various sources to see how both have changed over time and to summarize the air quality. While national average concentrations of the six pollutants are below national standards, results vary by site. Annual pollution levels at some monitoring sites remain above one or more of the national air quality standards, with ozone and particulate matter remaining the most persistent problems.

"The data is in and the trends are good—our nation's air continues to improve," said EPA Administrator Stephen L. Johnson. "EPA is clearing the air, and all Americans are breathing easier."

To view national air quality and emissions trends, see: <http://www.epa.gov/airtrends/econ-emissions.html>
For information contact: John Millett, 202-564-4355 or millett.john@epa.gov.

Energy Star Label

Awareness of EPA's Energy Star label has jumped to 68% of U.S. households. In many cities where local utilities and others use Energy Star to promote energy efficiency, public awareness averages 76%.

The report "National Awareness of Energy Star for 2006" has the results of a survey done for the Consortium for Energy Efficiency. They show that: • more than 60% of households are favorably influenced by the Energy Star label; more than 30% bought an Energy Star qualifying product or appliance in the past year; and

- more than 70% are likely to recommend Energy Star products.



EPA introduced Energy Star in 1992 as a voluntary, market-based partnership to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through energy efficiency. Today, the Energy Star label can be found on more than 50 kinds of products as well as new homes and office buildings. Contact: Enesta Jones, 202-564-4355 or jones.enesta@epa.gov. For more information: http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=news.nr_news#awareness1

Senior Environmental Employment (SEE) Position

The EPA Seattle Office has a full-time opening in its Tribal Trust Unit for a SEE (a grantee). A SEE Tribal Program Assistant will be 55+ and have at least a high school diploma. Duties may include coordinating with customers, tracking and reporting data, grant file management, Web page management and more. Starting salary is \$9.50 an hour and includes vacation, holiday and health benefits. Fax resumes to 301-578-8895 or email to seep_resumes@ssa-1.org or mail to Senior Service America, Inc. (SSAI), 8403 Colesville Rd, #1200 Silver Spring, MD 20910.

Public Affairs Specialist

EPA now has a position open to applicants outside the Agency. The salary range for this permanent, full-time position in the Seattle office is \$66,762 to \$103,211. **Application deadline is June 8, 2007.** For more information go to www.epa.gov/region10. Click on "Jobs" in the right hand column.

Alaska Ceremony Will Culminate 2,000-mile Yukon River Healing Journey

The Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council (YRITWC) and Planetwalk are pleased to announce the Healing Journey beginning this month.

On **June 4, 2007**, the Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council (YRITWC) and PlanetWalk will hold opening ceremonies to initiate the *Healing Journey*, a celebration of culture, a call to action, and an urgent message to the world.

Fulfilling an ancient prophecy, the *Journey* will start with traditional canoes and contemporary boats at the headwaters of the Yukon River in Atlin Lake, British Columbia, Canada on June 4 and travel about 2,000 miles downriver, visiting all indigenous communities along the way. Visits will include a traditional meal and cultural exchange, dancing and drumming, and a talking circle to begin to mend the past and forge a commitment to a common future based on environmental stewardship and healthy communities.

Paddling will begin on June 5 to commemorate World Environment Day and highlight past YRITWC successes, including removing and recycling over 3.5 million pounds of hazardous waste out of the Yukon River watershed, establishing a tribal water quality monitoring program in collaboration with the United States Geological Survey, and receiving "High Honors" from Harvard University's Honoring Nations Program. The Journey will also draw attention to indigenous peoples' concerns and experiences with climate change while sharing innovative solutions such as renewable energy and resource management based on traditional knowledge.

Dr. John Francis, United Nations Environment Program Goodwill Ambassador and Director of Planetwalk, will participate in the Journey and share it through his global network. Author of *Planetwalker: How to Change Your World One Step At A Time*, he has walked across North



America and much of South America. On the journey, he will be working with the indigenous peoples in the Yukon River watershed.

The Healing Journey beginning June 4th culminates August 9-13, 2007, at the 10-year anniversary Summit of the YRITWC in St. Mary's, Alaska, near the Bering Sea Coast. As the *Healing Journey* travels downriver, each participating community will share observations and concerns related to climate change, all of which will be documented and brought to the Summit in St. Mary's. Along with Dr. Francis, keynote speakers at the Summit will include Winona LaDuke, Chief Oren Lyons, and Billy Frank.

The *Healing Journey* and Summit are sponsored in part by National Geographic Society, First Nations Development Institute, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Alaska Conservation Foundation.

For more information, contact Rob Rosenfeld, YRITWC Director at 907-388-2683, Jon Waterhouse, Assistant Director, at 907-258-3337 or Suzanne d'Coney, PlanetWalk Coordinator, at 415-298-0337. Or visit: www.yritwc.com



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Alaska Operations Office

ALASKA NEWS

C O N F E R E N C E

NCAI 2007 Mid-Year Conference

The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) Mid-Year Conference is being held at the Egan Center in **Anchorage, Alaska, June 10–13**. The theme for the meeting is “Strengthening Economies and Cultures Under the Midnight Sun.” The conference will address such issues as “Beyond Sustainable: Environment & Tribal Lands,” “Violence Against Indian Women” and “Methamphetamines and Substance Abuse.” The National Caucus of Native American State Legislators and the Federal Recognition Task Force will also meet during the conference.

The NCAI Alaska Local Planning Committee is holding a “Land of the Midnight Sun Gulf Tournament” to raise funds for the NCAI Embassy in Washington, DC, on Sunday, June 10th. The

committee is also holding a “Welcome Reception and Celebration” on Sunday, as well as a Cultural Celebration at the Alaska Native Heritage Center on Tuesday evening.

The NCAI has had a long and prestigious history. Founded in 1944, it stresses the need for unity and cooperation among tribal governments while working to inform the public and Congress on the governmental rights of American Indians and Alaskan Natives. NCAI has grown to include 250 member tribes throughout the United States.

For more information or to register for the NCAI 2007 Mid-Year Conference, please check the websites <http://www.anchorage.net/NCAI> or <http://www.ncai.org>

T R A I N I N G

National Incident Management System

Knowledge of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) is required to obtain a federal grant related to emergency response and planning for tribes. The FEMA Region 10 NIMS Program, in coordination with the Incident Management Systems Division (previously named the NIMS Integration Center, NIC) has scheduled a NIMS workshop for Alaska.

Due to the anticipated June 1st release of the NIMS Document, we have scheduled the **Region 10 NIMS Workshop for June 28 in Anchorage** (specific location to be determined).

The workshop will present the new NIMS Document, the status of the state, Alaskan Native Communities and regional federal NIMS implementation requirements. It will also cover NIMS resource typing, credentialing and training

efforts. This workshop is not NIMS/ICS training, but gives an overview of the system implementation.

If you are interested in attending please contact Ron Britton, NIMS Coordinator FEMA Region 10 at rpm.britton@dhs.gov or 425-487-4686 for the location and agenda. Incident Command System (ICS) online training is available at *IS-100, Introduction to Incident Command System*: <http://emilms.fema.gov/ICS100G/index.htm> and *IS-200, ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents*: http://emilms.fema.gov/is200_ICS/index.htm.

If the links are not working, please type in the Web address or go directly to the FEMA Emergency Management Institute (EMI) Independent Study Distance Learning site: <http://emilms.fema.gov>

TRAINING

7-Generations Training Opportunities

Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association, Inc. is proud to offer the 7-Generations course through funding from EPA. This training is a way to build community strength through identifying and solving environmental problems. It is a powerful process that can lead to a healthier and more sustainable community.

Upcoming training will be held in **Barrow, Alaska on June 19-22, 2007**. If you are interested in attending, please contact Pat

Neakok at 907-852-4227 ext. 226. If Pat is not available, please contact Klaudia Klaudi at 907-222-4216 or klaudiak@apiai.org and Bruce Wilson at 907-222-4206 or brucew@apiai.org.

If you would like more information about the program or upcoming classes, please take a look at APIA's website www.apiai.org, under "News & Events" and "Environmental Education" in the Community Services Department section.

ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS UPDATE

National Pollution Discharge Elimination System Update

In July 2006, the U.S. EPA, Region 10 Office received an application from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) for the authorization for NPDES permitting. This means that ADEC, instead of EPA, would be the permitting authority for the majority of wastewater discharges. EPA would retain authority over a small number of permits.

The transfer of the NPDES permitting program from the federal to state governments was envisioned when Congress passed the Clean Water Act. Most states have permitting authority. Only a handful of states, including Alaska, do not.

EPA assesses the application for completeness, and when it is complete, initiates the process to determine if the program can be approved. EPA is currently reviewing a draft application. ADEC's first draft application is available for review and comment on its website. All interested parties, public, tribal and governmental, are encouraged to review this information.

Before the application is approved, EPA holds a public hearing and consults with the tribal government requesting consultation. A letter is

sent to all Alaskan federally recognized tribes before consultation begins. Information is made available in the tribal newsletter, via e-mail and in tribal meetings. Separate meetings with EPA can be arranged. Due to budget limits, it is unlikely that EPA will travel to meet with individual tribes, though tribal consultation may be held in some hub communities. EPA is developing a consultation plan, and suggestions are welcome.

The ADEC website for reviewing the NPDES application is <http://www.dec.state.ak.us/water/npdes/application.htm>. A link on that site leads to a draft Memorandum of Agreement that describes how the NPDES program may be implemented: http://www.dec.state.ak.us/water/npdes/pdfs/MOA_06-29-06.pdf

For more information, including an overview of the NPDES program, visit the EPA R10 website. <http://www.epa.gov/r10earth/>. Click on *Index A-Z*, then on *N for NPDES*.

If you have questions or suggestions regarding the Tribal Consultation plan, or would like to receive e-mail updates on NPDES authorization, please contact Michelle Davis at davis.michelle@epa.gov.

Check out EPA's page of links for Web-savvy kids:
<http://www.epa.gov/indian/kidlinks.htm>

**Got E-mail?**

Make the choice to receive this newsletter electronically. Send your e-mail address

to Robb Woodman at:

woodman.robert@epa.gov

To Report Spills and Accidents

Note these emergency numbers to call in the event of hazardous material spills or accidents.

Alaska	800-478-9300	Washington	800-258-5990
Idaho	800-632-8000	National (EPA)	800-424-8802
Oregon	800-452-0311		

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**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Alaska Operations Office**

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